B747-200 aircraft and 3 A300-B4 aircraft are proposed to be phased-out.

(d) and (e) The expansion of fleet from time to time depends upon the growth in Passenger and Cargo traffic in the country, market requirements, economics of operations and other financial and commercial considerations.

Rehabilitation of slum dwellers around Mumbai Airport

3090. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation has removed a number of slums from its encroached land in Mumbai recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has any plan to rehabilitate those removed slum dwellers; and

(d) if so, what is the status of the rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) required additional land for the purpose of extension of B-3 taxi track at Mumbai airport for augmenting the runway capacity at Mumbai airport. There were encroachments in the land adjoining the taxi track. AAI requested the Government of Maharashtra to help in this regard. With the assistance of the State Government of Maharashtra, Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) and Shivshahi Punarvasan Prakalp Limited (SPPL), a survey was conducted of the slum settlements and 2016 hutment dwellers have been identified, who were in existence prior to 1.1.95. SPPL has initiated action for removal and rehabilitation of these slums/encroachments. In terms of the policy of the State Government, these slum dwellers are to be resettled at a different location. AAI has sanctioned necessary amount at per rules towards rehabilitation of these slum dwellers and a partial payment of Rs. 7 crores has already been released as first instalment to SPPL towards the resettlement cost. The SPPL has

already started shifting these slum settlements. In addition, recently, AAI has also carried out demolition of unauthorised settlements which were posing a security hazard for aircraft operations. In terms of the policy of the State Government of Maharashtra, only those slum dwellers whose names appear in the survey and who were in existence prior to 1.1.95 are eligible for rehabilitation. The work of removal of encroachments and rehabilitation of the displaced slum dwellers is undertaken by State Government of Maharashtra.

Air Connectivity

†3091. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India, Indian Airlines and private sector airways have been unable to connect the country by air so far;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there have been some policy related reasons behind this;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it will be beneficial if Ministry of Tourism and Culture and Ministry of Civil Aviation sign an agreement to act together under a common policy development scheme; and

(d) the criteria Government would adopt for establishing the quality of aircraft during their purchase?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Air India, in addition to its international operations, provides connections to 12 domestic destinations. Indian Airlines and Alliance Air together link 63 destinations on their domestic network. Further, with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services in the country, Government has laid down the "Route Dispersal Guidelines" taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions including remote and in-accessible areas particularly the North-

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.